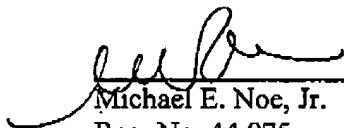


REMARKS

Applicant affirms the election of Group II, Claims 14-23, without traverse. Claims 1-13 are hereby canceled. Applicant also appreciates the suggestion offered by the Examiner to overcome the objections to Claims 18 and 21. Accordingly, the language of canceled Claim 21 was added to Claim 14, and new Claims 24-31 were added. New Claim 24 includes the language of Claim 14 and Claim 18.

It is respectfully submitted that the claims are in condition for allowance and favorable action is requested. No fee for an extension of time or other fees are believed to be required. However, in the event that one or more fees are required, please charge them to **Hitachi Global Storage Technologies' Deposit Account Number 50-2587.**

Respectfully submitted,


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